



Att'y Dkt. No. 77661/54
App. Ser. No. 09/911,731

JPW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR: KAWAHARA et al.
SERIAL NO: 09/911,731
FILING DATE: July 25, 2001
TITLE: FUEL CELL
GROUP ART UNIT: 1746
EXAMINER: Jonathan CREPEAU

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the non-final Office Action mailed July 1, 2004, the Applicant respectfully submits the following.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.

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Section 103

Claims 12-14, 16-18, 20-22 and 24-26 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilkinson et al. (US app. pub. no. 2003/0082432) in view of Cavalca et al. (US app. Pub. No 2003/0082432). Of these claims, claims 12-14, 17, 18, 20-22 and 24-26 remain pending.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendments set forth above to incorporate allowable subject matter into each of the pending claims. Specifically, claims 15, 19, 23 and 27 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 15, and claims 19, 23 and 27 have each been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of claim 12. Therefore, claims 12, 19, 23 and 27 are all allowable. Each of claims 13, 14, 17, 18, 20-22 and 24-26 depends on one of claims 12, 19, 23 and 27. Therefore, the application as amended contains only allowable subject matter.

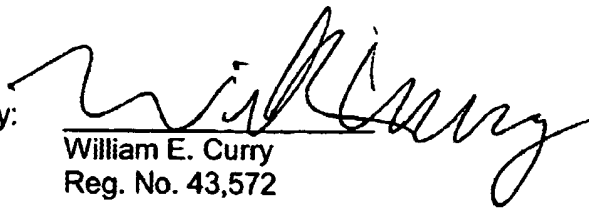
In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: SEP. 29, 2004

By:


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